

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

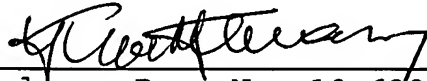
The subject matter of allowable claims 11 and 33 have been incorporated into claim 1, and the claim has been further amended in an effort to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112. Accordingly, amended claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

All the dependent claims have also been formally amended in an effort to overcome the Sec. 112 rejection and comply with the Examiner's suggestions. These claims are believed to be allowable with claim 1 whereon they depend.

Applicant has advised that the following references were placed of record on June 25, 2003 in the corresponding Austrian patent application: DE 42 33 082 A1, GB 2,175,561 A, JP 6-72607 A, JP 2-178110 and US 4,798,275. Also, DE 35 13 381 A1 and EP 0 254 261 A1 were cited in a European search report on October 21, 2003. Copies of all the references, with English-language abstracts of the German and Japanese references, and US 5,007,521 corresponding to the European patent application, are attached. Applicant believes that these references are irrelevant to amended claim 1. A check for \$ 180.00 for the late filing of the IDS is attached.

A sincere effort having been made to overcome all grounds of rejection, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-10, 12-30, 32 and 34-36 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Encls.: Form PTO-1449 with copies of references
Check for \$ 180.00

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP Amendment, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 8, 2005.



Maria Guastella